Legal Aid Society On Eve of 20th Birthday With Servicemen Cases

By MIRIAM TAYLOR

THE young soldier, wounded in action in the South Pacific, had been sent home to get well. But while he was confined to a hospital in another state, misfortune overtook him again. His wife, who had taken up residence near him, became seriously ill. There was no money to pay for her hospitalization, but the bedridden soldier remembered two lots of land he had inherited in suburban Springfield. When relatives in this city located a cash purchaser, it was discovered that the estate had never been probated, and title to the two lots could not be transferred.

This penniless soldier, in his hospital bed far from home, was still the head of his family, and something had to be done. He had heard about the Springfield Legal Aid society, and upon the advice of a lawyer, wrote here for assistance. The society succeeded in getting a down payment from the purchaser, to pay the soldier's immediate bills. And it is now in the process of clearing title to the property so that balance of the money may be turned over to him as quickly as possible.

In the last five years the Springfield Legal Aid society, which will be 20 years old the 15th of this month, has seen its case load reflect the transition from depression days to the tangle of domestic and social problems created by the mobilization of thousands of young men into all branches of the armed forces. The vast majority of the cases now handled by Counsel Gertrude D. Meaney and Associate Counsel August J. Buratti, concern the material, economic and psychological problems of Springfield's soldiers and sailors and their families at home.

"The army has discovered that the soldier whose mind is preoccupied with a legal difficulty is a less efficient fighter," Mrs Meaney says. "It has found that legal assistance has been of great value in hastening the recovery of the sick and wounded who are worried about their personal affairs."

Cases From Many Sources

The society's clients are referred to it by legal assistance officers in all army and navy bases in this country and overseas, by judges and clerks of court, probation officers, social welfare agencies and the Red Cross. It performs every legal service imaginable, from dispensing advice to prosecuting cases in the public courts while the soldier or sailor is far from home.

To its offices at 145 State street came a veteran recently who owed an unpaid balance of $100 on a car he had purchased before entering the service. Feeling that the car had increased in value, he did not wish to give it up. But he was unable to pay the money immediately, as he needed his discharge pay to reestablish himself in civilian life. The legal aid office negotiated with the loan company, which agreed to give him a month's grace, after which he was to resume monthly payments of $15 until the balance had been cleared. The idea had been the veteran's in the first place, but he had been unable to convince the company without legal help.

The legal aid society was organized in 1925 at the suggestion of the late Judge of District Court Wallace R. Heady, who felt that a great many people appearing before him lost their rights because of their inability to finance a defense. From Springfield's lawyers a fund of $2000 was raised to set up the society which has since handled the affairs of deserving persons unable to pay a competent private attorney. It was financed in this manner until January, 1926, when it was admitted as a Community Chest agency. Its original case load of 600 has increased to 3000 yearly, and it has handled a total of 40,000 cases in its 20 years' existence.

Under four presidents, Judge Heady, Carlos S. Ellis, John D. Shurtz and Robert R. Emerson, it has seen the prosperity, depression and war and veteran cycle take its course. Counsels before Mrs Meaney were Richard J. Talbot and Richard Bellows.

Numerous Domestic Cases

Unfortunately, however, the greater share of cases it has handled in the past five years concern broken homes of servicemen. As the war has progressed, their marital problems have become more and more tangled, and with the return in the past few months of thousands of European veterans, separation cases are reaching an all-time high. Not at all uncommon, Mrs Meaney says, are situations involving an estranged wife, one or more children and another man.

Although the society will cooperate in all cases with servicemen who are deserving of aid in obtaining divorces, every possible effort is made to restore broken relationships. The first step is a conference beeween the serviceman and his wife, with the help of the legal aid office. If there is nothing basically wrong, the attempted reconciliation will probably work. Sometimes it results in a temporary separation while the parties have time to "think things over."

"The more eager a person is to rush into court, the more advisable it is that he wait," Mrs Meaney observes. "Once they, people have testified against each other, it is nearly impossible to heal the breach." If the conference fails to bring results, the matter goes to the probation officer at district court, and another conference. If the case is finally brought to action, the society prefers to let it lie for three or four months, as there is still hope that the serviceman and his wife may become reconciled when they find the strangeness of the war-imposed separation has disappeared.

But far too many of the cases are resulting in divorce, Mrs Meaney believes that the war has precipitated a trend that had already grown to alarming proportions by 1941, and which will be remediable only through much sterner divorce legislation. She is a firm believer in uniform divorce laws throughout the country.

Not Only War Marriages

Contrary to popular belief, not all the marriages which go on the rocks are "war marriages." "Moral standards seem to have suffered a decline all around," the legal aid attorney declares, pointing out that a large share of the marriages which have failed recently have been 10 and 15 years old.

Just as necessary as uniform divorce legislation is a family court such as New York city has, Mrs Meaney believes. Matters affecting the family are now so divided between district and probate court that the average person has no idea where to begin litigation. For example, district court handles cases of neglected children, nonsupport and juvenile delinquency. Probate court considers legal separation, custody of children, guardianship and divorce. Thus, although nonsupport cases come up in district court, legal separation must be obtained through probate court, and in order to obtain legal separation a woman must be living apart from her husband. If she has two or three children, she cannot afford to do this.

The family court would handle any matter primarily affecting the family, without needless shuffling back and forth from one jurisdiction to another.

The legal aid society handles servicemen's cases as rapidly as it can, often settling matters while the man is on furlough. It finds, however, that many men and their families have limited or erroneous knowledge concerning their rights under the Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief act of 1940. Often they believe that no obligation shall continue and no right shall be exercised against the man in the service. They think his creditors have no rights and his family is permitted to stay where it is indefinitely. Nothing could be farther from the truth.

As to shelter, the family of a soldier who has been paying less than $80 a month rent cannot be put out of the occupied premises at once, if they fail to pay the rent. The court may allow the family to stay for a period of 90 days if the ability to pay rent stems from the fact of military service. At the end of 90 days the family, however, impoverished, may be required to move.

The soldier who has a lease, however, may terminate it simply by giving written notice to the landlord. But the landlord may go to court and show that the soldier is able to carry out his obligation under the lease.

The law also contemplates obligations the serviceman may have assumed and is now unable to continue, such as the purchase of real estate or personal property, taxes or assessments, insurance, mortgages, and loans. It may grant an extension of time, which usually means the period of military service, plus the time specified for payment in the contract. Thus, the serviceman is protected to a generous extent by the court, but he is not covered by one exempting piece of legislation. Court motions, the drafting of papers and appearance before the court are required.

A typical afternoon at the offices of the Springfield Legal Aid society presents an assortment of domestic and economic problems that may reach into many different homes and lives before they are settled in or out of court. Although marital and economic problems constitute the bulk of the cases, the society handles such diverse matters as power of attorney, furniture payments, postponed income tax, collection of fire insurance, inheritance, proxy marriage, wage claims, overpayment of allotment, and establishment of common law marriage, to mention but a few.

In addition to its regular services it answers a monthly average of 100 telephone inquiries on legal matters from the Red Cross, the Veterans' bureau and induction centers. Mrs Meaney and her staff of workers make it a daily practice to meet their troubled, uncertain public with a cheerful word. They know that, "A man will endure misfortune, hardship and bereavement, and will remain brave and hopeful as long as he has a fair chance. But let him see that his rights are denied for economic reasons or for any irrelevant reason which he cannot prevent or control and he will probably despair. He will remake his world, and because half desperate, do it badly."

Hospitality Repaid

Canberra—(AP)—Two Australian airmen who were fed and guided back to their base by natives of a New Guinea village showed their appreciation by flying over the village and dropping parcels containing trousers, shorts, colored cloths, razor blades, fishing lines, medical supplies and toys.

What's Ahead for GI Joe?

By JOHN T. CAVANAUGH

In the past there has been very little to attract a person into the selling field, asserts C. M. Davidson in a recent issue of Electrical Merchandising. "Unfortunately, selling and particularly retail selling has been considered a menial occupation requiring very little knowledge of education. Persons who failed in business or some other occupation, it is generally believed, turned to selling as a last resort."

Has Little Attraction

"Consequently, selling as an occupation has had little attraction to those who are starting out in life and especially those who are able to continue their education above the high school level," Mr Davidson states.

Surveys made from 1929 to 1942 showed less than 8 per cent of high school seniors were interested in selling and a current survey of 500 discharged veterans showed less than 3 per cent were interested in making selling their life's work.

In spite of this, many salesmen earn far more than most professional men and have greater opportunity for advancement. This will be true more than ever in the postwar period when manufacturers expect to pour billions of dollars worth of merchandise, equipment and services into a clamoring American market.

At first thought, it may not seem salesmanship will be necessary in the postwar period because of the pent-up demand. However, reflection will show a need for salesmanship where even two similar items are offered for sale—the purchaser will buy but one. "Which item?" and "Why?" are the leading questions answerable only by salesmanship.

Shortage Exists

Mr Davidson states: "The facts are that there was a definite shortage of well-trained salesmen before the war and now they are virtually nonexistent. We are told that we must produce and sell 40 per cent more goods and services postwar than prewar. If we are to accomplish this I believe that our salespeople and small businessmen must, on the average, be much better trained than they were prewar."

So far we have but prepared numerous little booklets to show how things can be done in "six easy lessons," the writer asserts. "We know it can't be successfully accomplished in this manner. We just haven't properly analyzed the problem."

As a solution it is suggested that colleges and institutions tailor selling courses to fit the veteran's available training under the GI bill with the cooperation of industry and business.

Mr Davidson assured that if he thought he could be able to look forward securing an entire sales force with college or institution certificates within five years he would feel that the nation was well on the way toward the solution of postwar selling.

"Unless and until we can elevate selling to a semiprofessional standing we won't be able to attact many persons into this field," he concludes.

Mr Davidson's suggestions are both sound and authoritative and, if followed, should help correct some of the evils in the selling field. However, strong assurances on the part of businessmen will have to be offered many veterans who recall weekly salaries of $16 and $18 and promotions to the allegedly enviable post of "assistant buyer" or "assistant manager" in lieu of a well-earned raise.

Valley Players Eat, Play, Act Together In Joint Living Plan

By OLIVE PEARSON RICE

THERE'S a big rambling house in the highlands of Holyoke that's mighty popular right now. It's the summer home of the Steiger family, rented to the Valley Players who are playing in 10 weeks of stock at the nearby Mountain Park Casino for their fourth consecutive year. The house looks sort of brooding in the morning sunshine with its overhanging porch roof. You come on it suddenly around a bend in the road and pass its gardens and terraces on your way to park beside the garages.

A hushed atmosphere pervades the domicile early in the day and the few people up and about on duty bent move in a cathedral quiet with hardly a sound to disturb the stillness. There are 18 actors asleep upstairs. They come from as far away as Florida, California, Louisiana and the midwest. These be hard working actor-folk who seldom get to bed before the bell in the steeple strikes 3 or 4 of a morning.

A pretty little white haired woman drives up to the back door and flits silently into the abandoned kitchen. She opens the door of the refrigerator and examines its contents. She makes notes, and then makes doubly sure she has all her ration books before she drives away.

Five Pounds of Hamburg

This is Mrs Lee Carson, a close friend of some of the actors, who was persuaded to come and get the meals for them this summer. This was an innovation for Mrs Carson but she finally decided to do her bit to help combat the shortage of help and she says she has never regretted it. She is, in fact, having the time of her life. Breakfast, she explains, is a free for all; luncheon is buffet style; but for dinner she rolls up her sleeves and goes to work, with the help of a daughter or two.

And what was she buying for dinner that night? Well, rationing being what it is and even with all those ration books, the meat situation is tight. So, tonight she's getting five pounds of hamburg for a beef loaf served with a tomato and mushroom sauce, baked potatoes, vegetables, and sliced peaches and cake. Sunday dinner for an actor is always chicken up there.

Shopping for 20 people and over is something to consider, she acknowledges with a smile. So she flits in early to take account of stock and the refrigerator which generally has "plenty of nothing" to offer after last night's midnight snack for the crowd. Dozens of eggs pour in from nearby farms, 22 quarts of milk are delivered at a time, but she must get the rest of the supplies in town. Canned soups disappear like greased lightning, coffee doesn't stay around long enough to whiff its aroma, jars of all kinds of cheeses, jams, jellies and peanut butter become empty in record time. Loaves of bread practically melt away. Sugar is doled out and is restricted. Milk goes out of the bottles like an ebb tide. And now more meals are coming along and no food in the house, as usual. Mrs Carson rushes to market.

Next to arrive on the scene are the three caballeros, from out their sleeping quarters off the kitchen. The erstwhile maids' rooms if you must know, complete with bath. These are the lads from below the Mason-Dixon line who aim to be actors all in good time. They are renting themselves out at a most reasonable rate per hour plus room and board just to be in an aura of "theater" all summer. They prove their value by cleaning up the diggings, scrubbing all the bathrooms, doing dishes and other chores. They can do the whole works in a few hours.

Morning Quiet Unbroken

They move quietly cleaning the huge living room with its enormous stone fireplace, the porches and the dining room. They arrange the furniture for the afternoon rehearsal from 1 to 5. One of the nicest things about the setup is the stage-size living room where the actors do most of their rehearsing. They slick up the kitchen and get things ship shape for the thundering herd, for when the actors want breakfast they don't mean maybe.

It's 10.30 of a sultry late July morning and the house begins to echo with footsteps on the upper deck and sure enough down comes the crowd. They have to get their own breakfasts and egg beaters sound like giant bumblebees as scrambled eggs are in the making, and the icebox door opens and shuts with monotonous regularity (its the hardest working member of the group) as quarts of milk, plates of butter, and cans of fruit juices are removed and set on the kitchen table.

Every available pot and kettle is filled with water and put on to boil to make gallons, it seems of coffee. One bright lad has discovered that he can burn more toast more quickly by broiling it in the oven. This breakfast is more riotous than any at Sardi's. The kitchen is not large and the occupants are many. Everyone perches on a chair or stool or stands drinking and munching. Morning attire is very diverse.

Hugh Franklin telescopes his lanky length into a little apple-green chair and slithers gracefully toward the floor. Imagine having a leading man land at your feet before breakfast and gaze at you out of wide, even if startled, blue eyes. It's just that the chair busted! Bet even Constance Bennett never got quite that look from her leading man when Mr Franklin played oppoite her in "Without Love," or Nancy Carroll in Bridgeport when he was her leading man in "Too Many Husbands," nor yet any of the cast with which he was touring in Eva Le Gallienne's production of "The Cherry Orchard" last winter.

Mrs Jean Guild, really the house mother besides being the character actress, joins the melee and pours herself a coke. She perches on a stool and looks with disdain at the scrambled eggs someone is smearing with katsup. It's a wonderful group, she opines, and very congenial which must be for them to live together so intimately. Most of the company live here but a few have rooms in nearby houses and come over during the day. They system is a marvel, in that it works. Each one takes care of his own room or segment thereof. And if you could see the neatness with which those men make their beds, when they do. Each gets his own breakfast, and lunch from the buffet table, each one sees that his sheets and pillow slips and other laundry gets ready on Monday morning to be sent out. The icebox is open to all, only be sure to shut it tight and do up your dishes.

The screened back porch is gaily aflutter with lovely samples from the lingerie counter washed and drying in the wind and the iron and ironing board are much in evidence. Mrs Guild explains that the Players do not function on the "star" system but as group acting.

Nevertheless, you have only to look at Miss Hayes to know she is a born leading lady. She's little and demure and her silky white hair is close cropped. She moves sedately and has trod the best theatrical boards in New York. She has been a riot; in fact she practically brings the house down whenever she appears on the stage. Those black spots on her back may surprise you: they seldom show unless a Sealyham has its hair cut short. O yes, Miss Hayes is Gaylord Mason's dog. The one who was with him when he played the juvenile lead in "Kiss and Tell" in its New York run last year.

He named his pup after Helen Hayes with whom he played as Thomas Beecher in "Harriet." His little Miss Hayes again played the canine lead in "Kiss and Tell" when the Valley Players gave it this summer under the direction of Mr Mason. Meanwhile Gaylord skirts the pile of charred toast gingerly and settles for eggs, and coffee from the miraculous pot which never seems to get empty. He's not only responsible for a dog on the place, but a grand piano as well, one after his own name, and he can play it to satisfy. It gives close competition to the scores of records they have up there for making music in the air, and the ever-active croquet set.

Icebox Always Open

How does that refrigerator ever catch up on its ice making? The door is seldom closed. It's open now at an angle to make the man in the snazy pajamas and blue silk bathrobe look decapitated. That's Ronald Telfer who, after studying in Europe for the stage and having own school of the theater in San Francisco has returned to live in Vermont, a dairy farmer at heart. He emerges with a large can of fruit juice and the startling statement that because of Papa De Gaulle, France is looking for another Jean de-Arc. It says so in the letter from Paris he holds in his hand.

Hah. The mail has come. Another wild scramble, this time not eggs. One actor has a bid to another theater. They all fall on his neck and ask him could he be so very happy anywhere else. No. He could not. Relieved they return to their own mail. Gaylord Mason finds his ration book in a letter and Mrs Guild grabs for it. He eludes her and thumbs it through rapidly and is disgusted. The red white and blue stamps are there and the sugar, but the family used up all except one shoe stamp before forwarding it. What a life.

A cute glamor girl ankles in wearing a raspberry chambray sport dress and her head done up in a kerchief. Her make-up spells theater but when she gives you a nice American grin you know she's a swell person. It's Martha Jones, a protege of Lynn Fontanne. It was while playing with the Lunts in "The Pirate" that she met and married Robert Emhardt, who was in the same cast.

The moment you hear Mr Emhardt's Churchillian voice you settle down satisfied that here is an actor who knows the hook. And right you are. He studied in London and played two years with the Lunts and then opposite Helen Hayes in a nine months' tour of "Harriet."

Color Sets Mood

Ed Wright is a character actor spending his sabbatical year from Dennison university, where he is assistant professor and director of drama, in the theater. Helen Harrelson is a curly-haired ingenue busily ironing on the back porch in a spare moment. Terry Little who played in "Junior Miss" in its New York presentation is busy going over her lines for his important part in the next week's play.

Breakfast is over at last and there's time to see Randall Brooks, the scenic designer down at the Casino before lunch. He's hard at work on next week's setting and glad to drive back for lunch. He comes from the Carolina Playmakers at the university. Priorities hinder his work at the Casino as paint is scarce among other items and each set has to be freshly painted for each week's performance. He takes time out to explain how he employs color to help set the mood for each of his scenes.

Back at the house a New York car is parked by the driveway. It belongs to Jackson Perkins. She lives down the road a bit with her three children, the twins are only a few months old. Her actor husband, Lauren Gilbert, is in the navy.

Rehearsal at Lunch

The buffet lunch and rehearsal were in full swing. When the actors finished for a few moments they would rush to the kitchen and make a sandwich as fat as those Cuban ones they serve at the side-walk cafes in Havana, rush it down with milk or soup and be back in the living room in time to pick up the next lines. The icebox was working overtime again. As Miss Perkins munched a sandwich she explained that she learns her lines the first thing in the morning when she feels refreshed and rested and before she gets up to her more than busy day. Watching her during rehearsal it is easy to see that she has the art of relaxation down to a science. One minute she is storming in a tense scene; that over, she completely relaxes in a comfortable chair. Makes one feel rested just to look at her. She manages to look regal even in a checked gingham dress with her head wrapped up in a scarf.

Rehearsal is a serious business. Miss Dorothy Crane, the able director, sits ensconced in a cretonne-covered wing chair by the fireplace and not a flick of the eyebrow or an inflection of tone escapes her notice. She builds up scenes, prompts, does the sound effects, and generally whips the play into shape to her liking. An invaluable aid to her, curled up in another wing chair at her side, is Merrell Hopkins, stage manager. Miss Hopkins is an instructor in the theater department at Smith college. They rehearse until 5 then dinner and the theater.

And now another evening performance is over. The blue-green curtain is lowered after the final curtain call and the crowd disperses. But the day isn't yet over for the Valley Players, one of the hardest working groups in this Pioneer valley. They pile into cars and the beach wagon and return home for another raid on that overworked refrigerator. Then they settle down for a few hours reading of the next play.

Much Hard Work

The stage is glamorous, indeed, but it includes a lot of hard work. These actors are giving one play, rehearsing another, and reading a third each week. Asked why they want to work so hard all summer they give two particular reasons. First, they get to play a variety of parts; second, it's like a bout of exercise to an athlete, it helps tone them up.

They give six evening performances Monday is free to the soldiers from Westover Field, one Wednesday matinee, and rehearse every afternoon from 1 to 5. Sunday is no day of rest, for they finish "breaking" one play in the afternoon and have a dress rehearsal of the current play with the new scenery ready for action at the Casino in the evening.

In between times you'll like as not find some of them giving out programs or taking in tickets even the Carleton Guild, the business manager who spends his summer days at the box office, or Miss Louie Mudget, the genial community publicist. The ushers range from Judy O'Grady to the colonel's lady (while he's stationed at Boston), all devotees of the theater.

All work and no play makes "Jack," reads an abbreviated proverb. Lots of work and lots of plays are part of what makes the hard-working professional Valley Players the popular success that they are.

Booby Traps Catching 'Skeeters

Washington — (AP) — Mosquitoes which lay eggs in areas likely to be flooded and which hatch out immediately after the floods rise have often proved the most difficult to control, the U. S. department of agriculture says in announcing a new method for controlling the insect.

Containers of DDT in oil are partly buried in the breeding grounds. Openings in the containers permit the oil to float out when the floods come.

Brazil Aids Literacy By Distributing Books

Rio De Janeiro—(AP)—In an effort to increase the national literacy, Brazil through its National Book institute annually distributes books to nearly 3000 public libraries in its 20 states, five territories and federal district. The institute, established in 1939, has distributed nearly half a million books.

Exhibit of Rare Fans Displayed At Museum of Natural History

HERE TOWERS a six-foot palm leaf fan with a border of mica, once probably waived over some Javanese potentate by relays of slaves. Nearby is a ballroom fan elaborately decorated with gold leaf and a large moonstone, at one time carried by some beauty of the 19th century.

These two unusual fans and scores of others, ranging from the primitive fibers of distant lands to the delicately tinted ostrich plumes which milady affected in the 19th century form a timely exhibit on view in the completely redecorated lecture hall at the Museum of Natural History during this month. The display consists of selections from the museum's collections and some fans loaded by Miss Ethel Tolman of Worcester, a well-known collector of art objects. Some of Miss Tolman's beautifully carved Chinese snuff bottles may still be seen in the museum's hall of geology.

Four cases of fans are on exhibition. One case contains Pacific islands, the Philippines, also used as fly whisks, have handles made of bundles of reeds tightly bound together and gracefully curved. The brushes are not woven, but are flat bundles of soft grass tips. One diamond-shaped fan from Hawaii is of closely woven fibers and contains squares of different colors like a patchwork blanket. Several other types of fans from various islands help to make this case of timely interest.

Another case features fans from Java and China, among them the six-foot palm leaf fan. Such large fans served the dual purpose of creating a breeze and keeping away the flies. Two fans at the top of this case are apparently made to imitate leaves. The fan itself is of tied fibers and the handles are S shaped. The use of the beautiful green wings of native beetles ornament other specimens from Java.

Tons of Engraved Mica

Many of the Chinese fans are of painted silk with lacquered handles. One very old fan in this display is made of thick painted paper with a long fringe or border of fiber. Two fairly recent Chinese fans are of paper-covered bamboo, and there are also two folding concentric circle fans of bamboo.

Fans from India in the exhibit are made almost entirely of engraved mica and might well serve to publicize the fact that India is the world's greatest producer of large mica sheet. An odd Indian fan is on the flag type, with the fan itself at right angles to the handle.

There are two Portuguese fire fans, made to fan a fire. Near these are a number of fans from Korea, Egypt and the Virgin Islands.

The fourth case, and by far the most colorful, is devoted entirely to 19th century folding fans. Here are numerous examples of the fans which the women of the past century carried and treasured as a necessary part of their costumes. There are feather fans, hand-painted fans, lace fans, fans trimmed with glittering sequins. One half of a church fan shows part of a picture of Moses bringing forth water from the rock to quench the thirst of the Israelites.

For West Point Dance

A fan of thin wooden vanes, tied together with ribbon, is said to have been made by Miss Marion C. Swett of Brookline. She carried it to a ball at West Point in 1885, and the brass button, which is tied to the fan was taken from his coat by a young man with whom she danced on that occasion.

Some original fan boxes, which add much to the value of the fans from a collector's point of view, are also on exhibition.

The modern electric fan may give a stronger breeze, but it doesn't match the charm, grace and meaning of these beautiful old fans.

The fan was undoubtedly first used by primitive man to fan his precious spark of fire into a flame, and was probably used by the people of every ancient land for this purpose. The word fan is derived from the Latin "vannus," an instrument used for winnowing grain.

The Chinese claim to have invented the use of the fan to provide a cooling breeze. They say that Langsin, the daughter of an all-powerful mandarin, while at a feast of lanterns, nearly became overcome by the heat. She removed her mask, and holding it so that it screened her features, waved it rapidly to and fro. This was such a daring thing to do at that time that other court beauties who were present immediately did the same thing with their masks to save her from shame. The custom thus started spread quickly.

A $80,000 Fan

Remains of fan found in an Egyptian tomb date from 1700 B. C. The first fans were simple leaf or bark affairs. The first folding fans were made in Japan about 900 A. D. and spread to China soon after. They were not introduced into Europe until the 16th century. Elaborate fans were used only by the rich for many years. Mme de Pompadore is said to have had one which took nine years to make and cost $30,000.

French and English women became artists in the use of the fan for social purposes. It is said that with the fan alone they could "invite, repel, encourage or repulse an ardent swain." In Shakespeare's day, no lady thought of stirring abroad without her fan, and the care of it always devolved upon her male escort. Many important state messages have been sent by using the fan and the method of holding or waving it to transmit a code.

It was once the custom of many men in Europe to carry fans. Schoolmasters used to bring unruly urchins to book by rapping their knuckles with a fan. The fop dangled his fan from his wrist. The beggar held out his fan as a receptacle for alms. Even warriors carried them at one time and could brain a foe with their iron cases or stab him with a dagger concealed in the fan itself.

In hot countries the fan is still the indispensable weapon against swarms of insects and the heat of the climate.

In New England, fans gradually passed out of fashion some 30 years ago, but lately their use has come back to a slight extent and they are now offered for sale in many stores.

Great Flying Boat Sinks After a Rough Landing

Hawaii Mars Goes Down in Chesapeake Bay—One in 10-Man Crew Injured

Rock Hall, Md., Aug. 5 — (AP) — Launched two weeks ago, the 133-passenger Hawaii Mars, largest flying boat in operation, sank in Chesapeake bay today when a rough landing ripped her hull.

One member of the 10-man civilian crew, R. S. Noble, a flight test engineer, was injured.

A navy announcement said the landing was semicontrolled, but its force caused the damage. Witnesses said the plane, apparently having trouble with one of her four engines, came down 500 yards off shore, parts of it remaining above water.

The 72½-ton behemoth, sister ship to the original Mars, will be fished out and returned to the plant, the navy said.

Says Fin Broke Off

A crewman, who declined use of his name, said that the mishap occurred after a vertical fin broke off while the ship was cruising at 6000 feet. The huge flying boat was launched at the Glenn L. Martin company airport July 21 and had not been commissioned by the navy pending completion of tests.

As the craft shuddered and seemed headed into a spin, the crewmen said, Lieut-Comdr William E. Coney, pilot, ordered "Prepare to abandon ship," and crew members donned parachutes.

Then the pilot ordered "Stand by for crash," kept the ship on keel and the Hawaii Mars nosed into the water at 125 miles an flour, the crewman continued. He said the impact sent loose fixtures flying.

Navy's Statement

The navy's announcement said:—"The Hawaii Mars was damaged in a semicontrolled rough landing off Love point in Chesapeake bay at 3.05 p. m., eastern war time, today. The force of the landing caused the hull to open and the craft sank.

"The Martin company is making preparations to return the plane to the plant.

"Only one member of the 10-man crew was injured. He is R. S. Noble, a flight test engineer, who suffered cuts and contusions and possible internal injuries. He was taken to South Baltimore hospital in a navy ambulance.

"Pilot during the test flight was William E. Coney, test pilot. No cause is ascribed for the accident and an investigation is being conducted."

Coney spent more time at the controls of the original Mars than any other pilot. He was loaned by the navy to the Martin company as test pilot for the 72½ ton Hawaii Mars.

George C. Sims, who rents planes at the Rock Hall airport, said he saw the huge ship over the field and noted there apparently was trouble with one of the engines.

"Five minutes later I went up in a Cub and saw the tail of the ship protruding out of the water," Sims said.

"I saw two men on a wing. A fishing boat took them off. Dr Temple Fay, who has a summer home at Rock Hall, was fishing nearby in a speedboat. He took the two men in his boat, and after giving them first aid, started with them toward the western shore.

"When I first saw the ship the tail and both wings were protruding from the water about 500 yards off shore. A little later the left wing was entirely under water and only a small part of the tail and right wing were visible."

Others in Crew

The Martin company said other members of the crew were E. R. Gelvin, copilot; G. E. Pitcher and T. C. Barnhill, flight engineers; W. B. Bergen, H. V. Cooper and H. R. McConahy, flight test engineers; R. Drenning, flight observer and B. J. Neuhardt, weight engineer.

The Hawaii Mars is a sister ship to another Mars dubbed "The Old Lady" which traveled 325,000 miles in 2600 flying hours between Alameda, Cal., and Pearl Harbor in war service.

Young Captain Wins Top Medal For Lone Battle Against Big Odds

Southport (Ct.) Youth, 20, Kills 15 Germans, Knocks Out Three Machine-Gun Nests

Washington, Aug. 4 — (AP) — Capt Michael J. Daly, who killed 15 Germans and took three bitterly contested strongpoints from the enemy, is the nation's newest winner of the Congressional Medal of Honor.

The war department announced today the medal had been conferred on the 20-year-old Southport (Ct.) lad for his exploits in the battle for Nurnburg, Ger., last April.

Daly, the son of an army colonel, has won the coveted Silver Star for gallantry in combat and has been twice wounded.

The official citation said that Daly, commanding Co A, 15th infantry, early in the morning of April 18 led his company through the shell-battered, sniper-infested wreckage of Nurnburg.

"When blistering machine-gun fire caught his unit in an exposed position," the citation said, "he ordered his men to cover, dashed forward alone, and as bullets whined about him, shot the three-man gun crew with his carbine.

"Continuing the advance at the head of his company, he located an enemy patrol armed with rocket-launchers which threatened friendly armor. He again went forward alone, secured a vantage point and opened fire on the Germans.

"Immediately he became the target for concentrated machine-pistol and rocket fire, which blasted the rubble about him. Calmly, he continued to shoot at the patrol until he had killed all six enemy infantrymen.

"Continuing boldly far in front of the company, he entered a park, where, as his men advanced, a German machine-gun opened up on them without warning. With his carbine, he killed the gunner; and then, from a completely exposed position, he directed machine-gun fire on the remainder of the crew until all were dead.

"In a final duel, he wiped out a third machine-gun emplacement with rifle fire at a range of 10 yards.

"By fearlessly engaging in four single-handed firefights with a desperate, powerful armed enemy, Lieut (this rank at the time of action), Daly, voluntarily taking all major risks himself and protecting his men at every opportunity, killed 15 Germans, silenced three enemy machine-guns and wiped out an entire enemy patrol.

"His heroism during the lone, bitter struggle with fanatical enemy forces was an inspiration to the valiant Americans who took Nurnburg."

HOCK TURTLE

A bird dog will often make a mistake and point to a turtle because turtles give off a subtle odor similar to that of a pheasant or a quail.

Different Views in Britain, U. S. On Government Control

By GEORGE GALLUP
Director, American Institute of Public Opinion

PRINCETON, N. J., Aug. 4—While Britain's election gave proof of a sharp swing of British public opinion to the left, American public opinion during recent years has moved in the opposite direction toward the right.

The contrast is significant in view of wide speculation as to whether the leftward political trend in England will have its counterpart in the United States.

Studies of public opinion here reveal no signs at present of any leftward shift in American political sentiment at all comparable to the shift in Britain.

The contrast between the two countries is shown clearly in their differing reactions to the issue of government ownership—one of the major planks in the platform of the victorious British Labor party.

Using the same methods as were used to forecast the British election with an error averaging only 1.0 per cent for all parties, the British institute of public opinion conducted surveys on government control weeks before the election took place.

Polls Hinted Results

The results showed, among those with opinions, a large majority in favor of government ownership of the railroads, a 4-to-1 vote for nationalization of British coal mines and a 2-to-1 vote for nationalization of the land. And approximately two out of every three Britishers with opinions on the question of nationalizing the Bank of England voted in favor of the idea.

In the United States, by contrast, public sentiment is not only opposed overwhelmingly to government ownership of railroads, banks and electric power companies, but is even less in favor of the idea now than a few years ago.

Here is how Britishers and Americans feel, respectively, about government ownership. Note how opposite the majority vote is for the two countries in each case. The percentages are based on the total expressing an opinion.

Government Ownership of Railroads

	Approve	Disapprove
Britain	70%	30%
U. S. A.	23	77

When British opinion was polled on nationalizing the coal mines, the Bank of England, and the land, the vote of those with opinions was as follows:—

BRITAIN

Government Ownership of Coal Mines	
Approve	80%
Disapprove	20
Nationalization of the Land	
Approve	63%
Disapprove	37
Nationalization of Bank of England	
Approve	66%
Disapprove	34

Contrast the above popular sentiment in Britain with the following attitudes in the United States toward government ownership of banks and power companies.

UNITED STATES

Government Ownership of Banks	
Approve	31%
Disapprove	69
Government Ownership of Power Companies	
Approve	37%
Disapprove	63

The American figures represent the public's views on government ownership taken as a general concept. Obviously the proportion of people favoring or opposing government ownership would vary depending on specific proposals made—whether the ownership is to be by federal, state or local government, the price to be paid for properties taken over, how the money is to be raised, rates, etc. The poll figures do, however, represent a true index of the trend or shift of public sentiment on the general idea of government ownership.

While British sentiment moved left between the elections of 1935 and 1945, study of trends in the United States for the roughly comparable period of 1936 to 1945 shows that the percentage of people favoring government ownership of railroads dropped 11 points, while the percentage for government ownership of banks is 10 points lower, and for government ownership of power companies 6 points lower.

A political party which advocated any such program for government control as is favored in Britain would dearly have a difficult time convincing the public of its desirability, judging by the American poll results.

Better Health Clinic New Attack On Cancer

By ROLINE CHURCH DUBOIS MD

IF THE progress of cancer is to be halted, something new must be instituted in order to detect the condition in its early stages. It is true that much has already been accomplished in this state by educational campaigns to bring this subject before the public by state clinics, where anyone can receive the most painstaking examination at no cost, and by the two cancer hospitals, all of which have contributed to bring about a lower death rate among women from cancer in Massachusetts than in other sections of the country.

Nevertheless, it is the old, old story here as elsewhere, that when the doctor first sees a patient with a malignant growth, it is on the average at least six months old. This is true of breast cancers which are the easiest of all to detect, as well as the most frequent in women; it is also true of cancer of the uterus which has a high mortality, though curable if treated early. There are certain signs which ought to send women immediately to their doctor—as bleeding between periods or following a douche, a vaginal discharge from no known cause or a change in its character. These signs may go on for months and be ignored because they give no particular discomfort or are taken as a vagary of the menopause. Growths in other parts of the body, stomach, bowels, lungs, give the same story of symptoms neglected until they point directly to the cause.

Early Detection Urged

What can be done that hasn't been to make people have a greater sense of responsibility for the earlier detection of malignant disease? With our present methods it too often has a head start before symptoms call attention to its presence, but there is ample evidence to show that one third of the deaths from cancer could be prevented if people reported unusual symptoms to their doctor.

The Massachusetts department of public health is approaching this subject from a new direction by the announcement of a plan to establish cancer prevention clinics. Last May the first clinic of this kind sponsored by any state was started in Fall River, and will serve as a model for others to come. The purpose is to offer a means whereby cancer can be detected in its incipient stages, before any subjective signs are evident. In other words, the public is urged to attend these clinics for the purpose of finding out whether or not a malignant growth is present.

The pessimistic thought comes to us that if people won't go for help when there is evidently something wrong, they may be equally unwilling to look for trouble. But it is only fair to state that this plan is not entirely a leap in the dark, for similar undertakings backed by private funds in other parts of the country have made it seem worthwhile for our own state to make this experiment.

Clubwomen Set Example

In New York, Chicago, Philadelphia Los Angeles and other centers, several clinics of this kind have been established with results that merit serious attention. To get these off to a good start appeals were made to members of women's clubs to set an example for other women by finding out if they had any signs of uterine cancer, and over a thousand healthy women had such an examination. In that group three were found who had a cancer, the prompt treatment of which resulted in cure. In the first five years of one clinic, 11 early cases were found, which were successfully treated. If these had waited until symptoms had compelled attention to their existence, some would have been too far advanced for any possibility of cure.

The establishment of such clinics in our own state is a wonderful opportunity. Think of it—a complete physical checkup including laboratory and X-ray examination, at no cost. Thus does Massachusetts assume the guardianship of its citizens' health and continue its leadership in the work of cancer prevention.

Early Detection Urged

Q. I am only 19 years old and already see streaks of gray in my hair. My father turned gray at a very early age, in the 20s, and I am afraid that this will happen to me. Is there any diet or medicine I can take to prevent it?

A. This is an inherited trait and up to now there is no diet nor drug known that will retain the hair pigment. Of course anything that will keep you in the best possible health will help to ward off depigmentation.

Q. I have a large calcium deposit in my shoulder joint, and my whole arm is sore at times, so that I cannot use it comfortably in every range of motion. I have stiffness in my lower spine and both arm and back have troubled me since the spring. Is an operation the only answer.

A. The fact of having a large calcium deposit is not sufficient reason for operation since many people have calcium deposits without any symptoms from them. It would appear that the trouble is a general rather than local condition and that operation for the shoulder joint would be of questionable value.